

**POLS 1101: American Government
Fall 2008 Call # 81224**

Instructor

Jim Kallerman
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Class Meetings

Tuesdays, Thursdays 9:30 a.m
Journalism 505

Office

Candler 108
Hours TBD

Goals of this Class

This course aims to clarify the processes of U.S. politics. Also, this course encourages you to evaluate the practice of democracy in the United States and to sharpen your ability to think critically.

Textbook

Benjamin Ginsberg, Theodore J. Lowi, Margaret Weir, *We the People* (2008) Seventh Edition, available at the University Bookstore (by the Tate Center). You will also be responsible for readings you will find on WebCT. Additional readings may or *may not* be listed on this syllabus. Students are responsible for the material in the additional readings whether the readings are listed on this syllabus or not. More on this early in the semester.

Assignments and Evaluation

Lectures are designed to amplify and clarify the assigned readings. Discussion will be a part of every class meeting, so read the required material *before* the accompanying lecture. Be ready to discuss the material with the class; students who are content to just take notes all semester will receive an inferior participation grade. Be advised that this syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

Tests There are three exams. There is no cumulative final. You can make up any missed exam except #3 without providing an excuse. All make-ups are given only on Dec. 16 after Exam #3.

Paper Your paper should be 5-6 typed, double-spaced pages. It is due at the beginning of class on Nov. 4. You must submit a hard copy—no electronic submissions. The subject of your analysis will be a 2008 House or Senate election of my choosing. More on this assignment early in the semester.

Election Discussion Students are expected to contribute to our class discussion (Nov. 4) of the elections we studied.

Attendance Each student is allowed three (3) unexcused absences. For each unexcused absence after the third, the student will lose 5 points off of his or her participation grade.

Conduct Students are expected to observe basic courtesy and professionalism in class. Cell phones are to be turned off, and students are not to read the newspaper, do crossword puzzles, or study for other classes during lecture or discussion. In addition, please do not use personal attacks as you debate or discuss matters. Use logic and evidence to make your point.

The Department of Political Science follows UGA policy regarding academic honesty. All academic work must meet the standards contained in contained in “A Culture of Honesty.” (See Web address below). Students are responsible for informing themselves about those standards before performing any academic work.

<http://www.uga.edu/honesty/>

Grading

All work is graded on a 0-100 scale. An “A” requires an average of at least 90; “B” is 80-89; “C” is 70-79; “D” is 60-69; and F is for an average of less than 60. For out-of-class work, lateness is penalized 10 points per 24 hours or a fraction thereof, and poor writing or general sloppiness can be penalized up to 10 points. Your course grade is based on the following:

60%	3 tests @ 20%
25%	Paper
15%	Attendance/Participation

Lecture and Assignment Schedule

Week 1 Aug 19-21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction • Forging the Constitution 	GLW Pages 36-43
Week 2 Aug 26-28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federalism 	GLW pp. 43-110
Week 3 Sept. 2-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federalism and the Commerce Clause 	WebCt <i>Wickard v. Filburn</i> WebCt <i>U.S. v. Lopez</i>
Week 4 Sept. 9-11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Commerce Clause and Judicial Review 	WebCt <i>Gonzales v. Raich</i>
Week 5 Sept. 16-18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Courts 	GLW pp. 614-647 pp. 637-39 (especially) <i>Roe V. Wade</i> on WebCT
Week 6 Sept. 23-25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil Liberties and Incorporation 	GLW pp. 118-150
Week 7 Sept. 30-Oct.2	<p>Exam #1 Sept. 30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Georgia Constitution 	Fleischmann and Pierannunzi pp. 1-30
Week 8 Oct. 7-9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GA Constitution • Congress 	GLW pp. 466-508
Week 9 Oct. 14-16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congress • Congressional Elections 	GLW pp. 374-392
Week 10 Oct. 21-23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campaign Finance 	GLW pp. 413- 419
Week 11 Oct. 28-30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redistricting • Oct. 30—no class (Fall Break) 	
Week 12 Nov. 4-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper Due Nov. 4 • Presidential Elections 	GLW pp. 393-407
Week 13 Nov. 11-13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primaries • Exam #2 Nov 13 	
Week 14 Nov. 18-20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic Policy 	GLW pp. 657-695
Week 15 Dec. 2-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interest Groups • Social Movements 	GLW pp. 426-450
Exam #3 Dec. 16 8:00 a.m.		